

Board Meeting Highlights

May 26, 2017

Announcements:

a) Gilmor vs. NVCA

CAO Mike Walters was pleased to announce that the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) was recently successful in a lawsuit against Gilmor, a lengthy case that included NVCA being awarded costs. As a result, the provision for safe access is again clearly enshrined in the Section 28 regulation and the responsibility of conservation authorities to enforce. Also highlighted was the requirement for municipalities to ensure that proponents have been successful in receiving the permit approvals from conservation authorities prior to municipalities issuing building permit approvals.

b) Coming Events

General Manager, Conservation Lands, Brian Kemp advised the Board that two events are coming up: the 3rd Annual BioBlitz at Sheppard's Bush on June 17th, which is a 24 hour blitz of property to count species; and the Bradford Mayor's Hike taking place at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area on June 10th.

c) MMA Letter regarding Septic Re-inspection

CAO Walters noted that a few members had questioned the letters that municipalities in Ontario received from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs regarding septic re-inspection no longer required under the building code. He did, however, note it is still required under Source Water Protection (if you are considered a risk and in a wellhead protection zone WHPA1) and in the Lake Simcoe watershed through the Lake Simcoe Protection Act and Plan, which states that municipalities are required to undertake inspections for residential septic systems adjacent to the lake and within 100 metres of a watercourse.

Presentations:

a) LSRCA's Ecological Offsetting Plan

Natural Heritage Ecologist, Kate Lillie, provided the Board with an overview of LSRCA's Ecological Offsetting Plan, noting the Plan is about compensation for the unavoidable loss of natural heritage features from one area through the replacement or enhancement of features in another area. She noted the Plan facilitates development on strategically important land, such as settlement areas, while upholding the principle of "no net loss" and addresses the environmental impacts of development. She also noted that ecological offsetting is only considered when there is no other option.

The Plan includes feedback from non-government organizations, consulting firms and members of the Building Industry and Land Development Association, and member municipalities. Details of the plan include proponents' conforming to all applicable provincial, regional and local policy, as well as the Mitigation Hierarchy. Options for compensation are then considered, with the first and preferred option being replacement of the feature (woodland, wetland, etc.), and the second option is cash-in-lieu, where LSRCA, in consultation with our member municipalities, administers and redirects any funds

collected towards the creation, protection or restoration of natural heritage features in the watershed, targeting the municipalities and sub watersheds from where features were originally lost.

In conclusion, the Ecological Offsetting Plan will provide a consistent, fair and transparent approach for implementing ecological offsetting, support strategic development in designated areas, and ensure “no net loss” of natural heritage features in the Lake Simcoe watershed.

b) Harmonization of Program and Services

Chief Administrative Officer, Mike Walters, provided the Board with an overview of LSRCA’s Harmonization of Programs and Services, noting that harmonizing services with our neighbouring conservation authorities was identified as a priority action in LSRCA’s Strategic Plan. Accordingly, he explained that a review of programs and services has been undertaken in order to evaluate a) if opportunities exist to improve the consistency of program delivery for member municipalities shared by more than one conservation authority, b) identifying instances where LSRCA could align programs and services into similar categories of core business to assist our municipal partners when evaluating budget requests, and c) to better reflect the intent of the new Strategic Plan Goals, Outcomes and Activities and respond to increasing growth and complexity of issues within the Lake Simcoe watershed.

The review determined that the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) had the most appropriate business model that best reflected the needs and strategic direction of LSRCA, and accordingly LSRCA decided to align the business to be more consistent with the programs and services categories offered by TRCA, but also retain programs and service areas that are unique to LSRCA and required in the Lake Simcoe watershed.

LSRCA’s various programs now reside under the following seven service areas:

- Watershed Studies and Strategies
- Water Risk Management
- Ecological Management
- Greenspace Services
- Education and Engagement
- Planning and Development Services
- Corporate Services

Correspondence and Staff Reports:

Correspondence

The Board received a copy of LSRCA’s letter to the Hon. Kathleen Wynne requesting her support regarding the transfer of development rights regarding the Maple Lake Estates site. The Board also received a copy of LSRCA’s response from Hon. Kathleen Wynne, which advised that the matter would be best dealt with by the Hon. Bill Mauro, Minister of Municipal Affairs.

LSRCA's Ecological Offsetting Plan

The Board approved Staff Report No. 22-17-BOD prepared by Natural Heritage Ecologist, Kate Lillie, which outlined and sought approval of LSRCA's Ecological Offsetting Plan.

Harmonization of Program and Services

The Board received Staff Report No. 23-17-BOD prepared by Chief Administrative Officer, Mike Walters, which detailed LSRCA's efforts to harmonization services with neighbouring conservation authorities, an initiative set out in the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan.

Budget Status Report

The Board received Staff Report No. 24-17-BOD, prepared by Manager, Finance, Katherine Toffan, which provided the Board with a summary of revenues and expenditures for the period ending April 30, 2017.

Lake Simcoe Phosphorus Offset Program

The Board received Staff Report No. 25-17-BOD prepared by Chief Administrative Officer, Mike Walters, which updated the Board on the progress of implementing the Lake Simcoe Phosphorus Offset Program.

Durham Community Climate Adaptation Plan

The Board approved Staff Report No. 26-17-BOD prepared by Manager, Environmental Science and Monitoring, David Lembcke, and Manager, Integrated Watershed Management, Bill Thompson, which provided a brief overview of the Durham Community Climate Adaptation Plan and sought the Board's approval in principle of the Plan, as well as LSRCA's participation in Phase 3: Program Approval and Funding.

Purchasing Policy – Outreach and Engagement Services Contract

The Board approved Staff Report No. 27-17-BOD prepared by Manager, Integrated Watershed Management, Bill Thompson, regarding a contract for outreach and engagement services related to winter salt management practices. The Board approved staff's recommendation to award the contract to Freeman Associates.

LSRCA's 2018 Budget Assumptions

The Board approved Staff Report No. 28-17-BOD prepared by Manager, Budget and Business Analysis, Susan McKinnon, which sought the Board's approval on the Budget Committee's recommendations for 2018 budget assumptions for the operating and capital budget development process.

For more information or to see the full agenda package, please click the link below for LSRCA's Board of Directors' webpage: [LSRCA Board Meetings](#)